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MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Phase III of Operation Alert 1958

1. Operation Alert 1958 consists of three phases. Phase I was a simulated air attack and a nation-wide air raid drill which took place on 7 May 1958. This Agency participated in this Phase on a token basis.

2. Phase II which took place during the period 16-18 July 1958 was the Relocation Phase. This Agency participated as it has done in the past pursuant to special arrangements with the Office of Defense and Civilian Mobilization. At the conclusion of Phase II a report was rendered in compliance with the overall requirements of ODCM.

3. The remaining phase of the exercise, Phase III, is scheduled to take place during the period 17, 18 and 19 September 1958. The program for this Phase (ODCM Program Memorandum X-14, Annex No. 9, dated 1 August 1958) is attached hereto for your information. It was contemplated originally that Phase III would consist of a convocation at High Point of certain key officials of all departments and agencies who would engage in a critique and prepare a final report on the whole exercise for the President. On this basis, it was assumed that Col. White and I would be required to attend the meeting.

4. However, a conference held yesterday with Mr. John F. Grady, the overall director of the exercise for ODCM, concerning interpretation of the attached Program Memorandum X-14, Annex No. 9, indicates that the concept of Phase III has changed somewhat since our original understanding and that, as now constituted, it will consist of a three-day symposium of groups of experts in seven different fields of continuity of government who will prepare an overall study, report, and recommendations based on lessons learned during Phase II of the exercise. This report will be presented to the President and discussed at an expanded Cabinet meeting which will be held on 19 September 1958 which Mr. Dulles will be invited to attend.

5. Mr. Grady feels at this time that it will not be necessary for any of us to attend any of the sessions at High Point or to participate actively or formally in Phase III in any way other than Mr. Dulles' attendance at the Cabinet meeting, for which no preparation will be necessary. Mr. Grady will watch this situation closely and will keep me advised of any further developments or changes of plans which might occur, and I shall keep you advised accordingly.

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CIA Emergency Planning Officer

Attachment: Phase III Program
 Memorandum X-14